



MCC[®]

METROPOLITAN
COMMUNITY CHURCH
OF THE LEHIGH VALLEY

Sunday, March 9, 2014
1st Lent

*The Pursuit of
Holiness:
Not Common*

930 North 4th Street ♦ Allentown, PA 18102
610-709-8800 ♦ info@mcclv.org ♦ www.mcclv.org

The Mission of MCCLV is to call all people to a holy life in Christ, changing lives and transforming the world

MCC LEHIGH VALLEY ORDER OF SERVICE

As you prepare for worship, take a few moments to reflect on the current state of your relationship with God. Is the communication channel completely open and free of any cross-traffic that might interfere with your ability to hear from God? What do you need to let go of, so that you may let God take control? Close your eyes, take a deep breath and let worship begin for you...

Opening Song

Call to Worship

Invitation to Ministry

A Time of Praise (3 Songs)

Prayer Preparation Song

Prayer

Scripture Reading

Children's Blessing

Live Boldly

Message

Song of Response

Offering

Offering Song

Communion

Communion Song

Prayer Over Gifts

Closing Song

Commission & Blessing

NOTES FROM THE MCCLV

office

Administrative Assistant Paula Merkel

Office Hours:

Monday: 8am-2pm

Tues-Thurs: 8am-1pm

Fri: 8am-12 noon

Space Reservation: Any individual or group wishing to schedule a meeting or event at the church **is required to fill out a space reservation form.** Write to office@mcclv.org more information.

Audio-Visual Support: Anyone planning an event at MCCLV **is required to see Music & Worship Director Brian Jones** in advance to arrange any needed AV support. The church may not be able to honor last minute requests.

Sunday Bulletin & Announcements

The deadline for all bulletin notices & announcements is **Wednesday at noon** – email to office@mcclv.org

Looking for low-cost space for your birthday party or family celebration? Consider MCCLV's Fellowship Hall and kitchen for your gathering! Contact Administrative Assistant Paula Merkel at 610-709-8800 or e-mail office@mcclv.org for more information.



MCCLV IS ON FACEBOOK!

Search **MCC Lehigh Valley**. All MCCLV related posts and tags will be approved through the office. Thank you for your cooperation!

FORGE A stronger relationship with Christ and one another—join a FORGE group!



A FORGE group **is not** a Bible study, Christian training session, group therapy, nor a doctrinal boot camp.

A FORGE group **is** a small, relational gathering of Christians, primarily focused on transformation and not information, where people learn how to interpret their entire lives through the lens of gospel and grow in faith in Christ.

Groups meet every other week for one hour for worship, prayer, devotionals, testimonies and fellowship. Although groups are spread out geographically (South, East and West) to make them easier to get to, you may attend whichever group you choose, even if it is not the one nearest you.



FORGE East Leader:
Barb Baus babaus@hotmail.com



FORGE West Leaders:
Scott George smgmcclv@gmail.com
Ron Smith rsmith.mcclv@gmail.com



FORGE South Leaders:
Loreli Bauer lorelibauer@aol.com
Elaine Ely pastor_elaine@yahoo.com



Bringing Christian Traditions Into Dialogue
HERE AT MCCLV IN 2014!

The
Convergence
Project

Meets every Sunday morning at MCCLV through April 13 at 9:00 AM, facilitated by Robert Schotter, robdean@ptd.net

- March 16** Jesus, Paul, Luke & Eunuchs: Same Sex Practices in Christian Scripture, Part I
- March 23** Jesus, Paul, Luke & Eunuchs: Same Sex Practices in Christian Scripture, Part II
- March 30** Power and the Alternative Family Values of Jesus
- April 6** Reading Scripture from the Margins
- April 13** Finding Ourselves and Our Communities in Scripture

Board Training Day
March 15, 2014
9:00am—1:00pm



20s30s



Are you in your 20s or 30s? Looking for some fun and fellowship? Would you like to connect with others in your age group? Join the fabulous 20s30s crew at their regular gatherings at 7pm on the first Friday of every month at MCCLV. It's a great place to meet others with common goals and kindred spiritual journeys.

For details contact Scott George
email: smgmcclv@gmail.com

HIV Positive Support Group

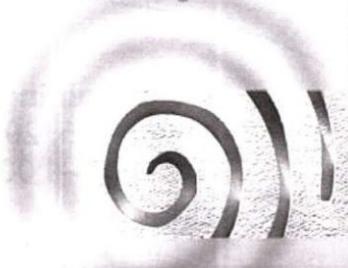
A HIV support group at MCCLV meets the 2nd Sunday of each month at 12:30pm. The focus is on living a positive life with HIV—the group is called HIV/Positive Living. This will be a chance to share and have candid discussions. This group is limited to those with HIV, but there will be occasional guest speakers. If you are interested, please contact **Dean Hiatt** at robdean@ptd.net



Are You Feeling Off-Center?

Is your life feeling a bit off-kilter or are you in need of a deeper way of prayer? In May, June and July MCCLV will offer Centering Prayer at 6:00PM on Wednesdays. It would be helpful (though not required) if participants would read Rev. Cynthia Bourgeault's book "Centering Prayer and Inner Awakening" before May. Questions? See Rev. Goudy or e-mail her at rev.goudy@mcclv.org

Centering Prayer and Inner Awakening



Cynthia Bourgeault



MCCLV IS ON YOUTUBE!

To view and subscribe to our channel go to www.youtube.com and search **MCC LV**.

MCCLV'S COMMUNITY

FOOD PANTRY

Open every Sunday at 12:00-1:00 PM to serve the community. The pantry is in need of donations. Drop off items in front of the pantry door. Thank you!



Save The Date!

MCCLV's 30th Anniversary Banquet
has been scheduled for **May 31, 2014**.



Retirees Gatherings

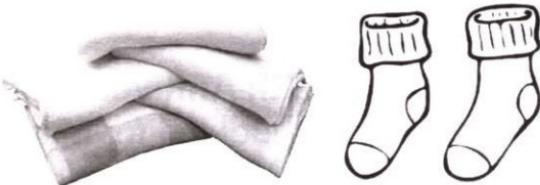
Retirees meet the 2nd and 4th Tuesday. Come and share some "golden" time with similarly blessed retirees!



For more information, contact
Karl Steiner, karl.steiner@mcclv.org
or Elaine Ely,
pastor_elaine@yahoo.com

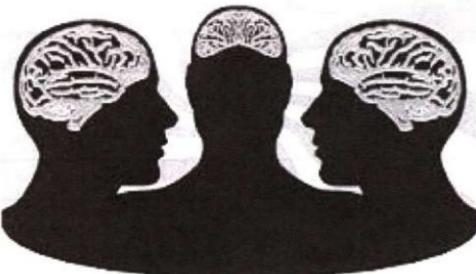


MCCLV and St. Andrews Episcopal Church are co-sponsoring a fundraising raffle to benefit homeless men in the Lehigh Valley Raffle tickets will be sold during fellowship hour: 3 tickets for each \$1.00 donation. Prizes consist of a free haircut by Ruben, a hair care basket, a Zumba lesson and others. Donation of these items will be accepted: blankets, men's socks – all sizes, and men's personal care items. Donations will be distributed during Friday evening dinners provided to these men on January 31, February 28 and March 28, 2014. Volunteers are needed for multiple areas. For more information please contact Saadia Negron or Virginia Maurer after worship.



How Could MCCLV Do Church Events Differently?

Over the past year, MCCLV's major church events have experienced either low or significantly lower attendance than previous years. While the church's events were excellently planned, marketed and executed, getting people to them has been a struggle. Do you want to help turn this around in order to glorify God more widely? Gather together on **Monday, March 17, 2014 at 7:00PM** for a conversation facilitated by Rev. Goudy. Those gathered will talk with God and one another about how to transform the way MCCLV plans events. The meeting is NOT called to judge, criticize or travel down the "via negativa." The purpose is to be forward-looking and brain-storm diverse approaches to building up the kingdom of God. Be a part of this positive and inspiring conversation!



Seder Dinner

April 17, 2014

7:00 PM

MCCLV Sanctuary

The Deacons of MCCLV cordially invite you to a Celebration of family and God's protection - a Seder Dinner on Holy Thursday, April 17th at 7:00PM in the Sanctuary.

There is no cost for this event but reservations are required. Add your name to the sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall. Please consider bringing your family or a guest.

7:00 PM

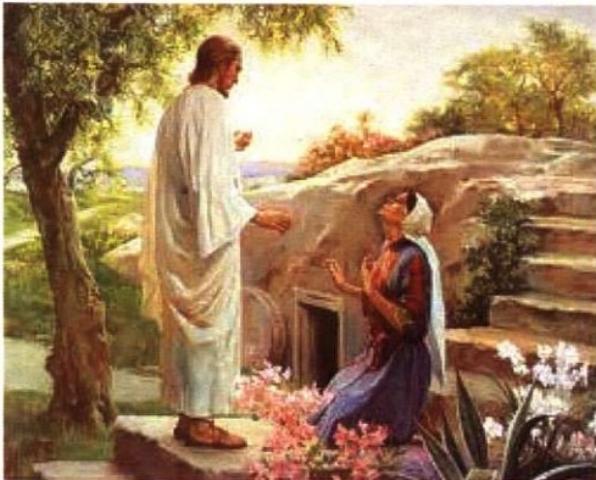
Seder Dinner
MCCLV Sanctuary
930 N. 4th St Allentown PA 18102

Good Friday Service



April 18, 2014
7:00pm @ MCCLV

Easter Service



April 20, 2014
10:30am @ MCCLV

Worship Arts Ministry



Sunday Scripture Readings will be changing!

MCCLV will be incorporating multi-media, multiple readers, memorization, use of hand-held microphones and staged readings to breathe new life into the reading of sacred scripture.

Participants will be required to take part in run-throughs immediately after worship the Sunday prior to the scripture presentation.

If you are interested in being part of this exciting new concept, there will be a short meeting after worship on **March 16, 2014 at 12:15pm** in the sanctuary.

Contact ministry leader Dean Hiatt to participate or if you have any questions (email: robdean@ptd.net)

A QUOTE FOR YOUR WEEK

**There is one thing that remains to us,
that cannot be taken away:
To act with courage and dignity and to stick to the
ideals that have given meaning to life**

(Jawaharlal Nehru)



Silent Witness Training

Sunday March 16, 2014

From 1:00pm—3:00pm

Fellowship Hall

Contact Barb Baus for more information

babaus@hotmail.com



MCCLV DRUMMING TWICE A MONTH!

MCCLV drumming will be held every 3rd and 4th Sunday at 1:00 PM. Bring your drum or other percussion instruments. See Kate Rickson (k.rickson55@gmail.com) if you are interested in joining.

DO YOU HAVE A CARE NEED?

Are you scheduled for surgery? Do you desire a home visit? Are you in need of a prayer partner? MCCLV's Congregational Care & Health Ministry Coordinator is Karl Steiner. Let Karl know your care needs by seeing him in person following the worship service, e-mailing him at karl.steiner@mcclv.org or phoning him at (610) 987-2858. Karl will coordinate care for you through MCCLV.



Did You Know?

MCCLV completed this past year in an encouraging financial position, praise God! MCCLV ended 2013 with a positive balance in its General Fund.

Thank you to all for your generous hearts!

Robert "Robby" Schotter Leadership Appointment

Welcome to Robby Schotter as MCCLV's new Discipleship Ministry Coordinator! Robby has a Master's Degree in Bible from General Theological Seminary in New York. He will be coordinating Adult, Children and Youth Spiritual Formation programming, FORGE groups and other discipleship opportunities. Feel called to help Robby with this ministry? See him following worship or e-mail at robdean@ptd.net



*For God did not give us a spirit of timidity.
But a spirit of power, of love and
self-discipline
(2 Timothy 1:7)*



FREE WEDNESDAY NIGHT DINNERS “PEOPLE OF FAITH” VIDEOS

Be a part of MCCLV's 2014 Wednesday Night Lenten Video Series and **FREE Dinners!** The series surveys the history of Christianity in the United States & the weekly 30-minute video brings up interesting questions for reflection and discussion.

March 12th, 7:00 PM “From Monarchs to the Marketplace”

- Ministry Coordinators providing meal

March 19th, 7:00 PM “Many Mansions”

- Board of Directors providing meal

March 26th, 7:00 PM “Rebels with a Cause”

- Retirees providing meal

April 2nd, 7:00 PM “Challenges and Change”

- Choir providing meal

April 9th, 7:00 PM “Home Grown Saints”

- 20s30s providing meal

April 16th, 7:00 PM “The Future of Christianity”

- Worship Team providing meal

RSVP to office@mcclv.org or 610-709-8800. All ages are welcome. **A great family activity!**

Food Pantry

Contributions are always needed for MCCLV's Food Pantry, bring in a donation whenever you are able. Volunteers are also needed for the Pantry.

Contact Judy McNally via e-mail at:
njm0@lehigh.edu



Early Morning Prayer

What if you could pick up the phone any time you wanted and talk with the most powerful leader or most famous celebrity in the world? Multiply that concept by a million, skip the phone and you're connected to God. WOW! What an amazing gift we are given, 24/7, with the Creator.

Every Sunday at 8AM, MCCLV gathers to converse with God. Come and be blessed as you connect with God through conversational and silent prayer. It truly is an amazing 45 minutes that will start your week with real power. For more information, contact Karl Steiner, karl.steiner@mcclv.org



MCCLV'S COMMUNITY FOOD PANTRY

Open every Sunday at 12:00-1:00 PM to serve the community. The pantry is in need of donation. Drop off your items in front of the pantry door. Thank you!



MCCLV is collecting donations for food cards every **2nd Sunday of the month** after the worship service. Consider making a donation to help those in great need of reducing their grocery store bills. Questions? Contact Michaela Rivera (pictured at left) or e-mail her at rednegshart@aim.com

Adopt an Apartment

6th Street Shelter in Allentown
Service opportunity for MCCLVers

Mark your calendars now

April 5, 2014—9:00am

Stay tuned for details!

E-mail: babaus@htomail.com





UPCOMING WORSHIP AT MCCLV

2nd Lent: March 16, 2014 @ 10:30am

Scripture Reading: Nehemiah 8:5-12

Preaching: Rev. Elizabeth Goudy

Sermon Title: "The Pursuit of Holiness III: Joy"

3rd Lent: March 23, 2014 @ 10:30am

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 6:1-8

Preaching: Rev. Elizabeth Goudy

Sermon Title: "The Pursuit of Holiness IV: "Holy, Holy, Holy"

4th Lent: March 30, 2014

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 35:3-10

Preaching: Rev. Elizabeth Goudy

Sermon Title: "The Pursuit of Holiness V: A Highway Called Holy"

5th Lent: April 6, 2014 @ 10:30am

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 57:13-18

Preaching: Rev. Elizabeth Goudy

Sermon Title: "The Pursuit of Holiness VI: Humility"

6th Lent: April 13, 2014 @ 10:30am

Scripture Readings: Psalm 118:19-29 & Matthew 21:1-11

Preaching: Rev. Elizabeth Goudy

Sermon Title: "A Parade of Righteousness"

Today's Scripture Readings:

Leviticus 10:8-10

And the Lord spoke to Aaron: Drink no wine or strong drink, neither you nor your sons, when you enter the tent of meeting, that you may not die; it is a statute for ever throughout your generations. You are to distinguish between the holy and the common, and between the unclean and the clean

Ezekiel 22:23-31

The word of the Lord came to me: Mortal, say to it: You are a land that is not cleansed, not rained upon in the day of indignation. Its princes within it are like a roaring lion tearing the prey; they have devoured human lives; they have taken treasure and precious things; they have made many widows within it. Its priests have done violence to my teaching and have profaned my holy things; they have made no distinction between the holy and the common, neither have they taught the difference between the unclean and the clean, and they have disregarded my sabbaths, so that I am profaned among them. Its officials within it are like wolves tearing the prey, shedding blood, destroying lives to get dishonest gain. Its prophets have smeared whitewash on their behalf, seeing false visions and divining lies for them, saying, 'Thus says the Lord God', when the Lord has not spoken. The people of the land have practiced extortion and committed robbery; they have oppressed the poor and needy, and have extorted from the alien without redress. And I sought for anyone among them who would repair the wall and stand in the breach before me on behalf of the land, so that I would not destroy it; but I found no one. Therefore I have poured out my indignation upon them; I have consumed them with the fire of my wrath; I have returned their conduct upon their heads, says the Lord God.

MCCLV's Weekly 2014 Budgeted for Giving is 3,916.98

Date	Attendance	Giving
3/2/2014	96	\$3276.33
2/23/2014	103	\$2060.35
2/16/2014	74	\$934.84
2/9/2014	91	\$2,889.16

Full financial reporting is provided at the Board meeting on the 2nd Sunday of every month. All are welcome to attend. Additionally, reports may be viewed in the Board binder in the Library.

MCCLV MINISTRY COORDINATORS

Congregational Care & Health:

Karl Steiner | karl.steiner@mcclv.org

20s30s Ministry, Faith Community Nurse, Hospitality, Prayer Team and Reconciliation & Affirmation Ministry

Discipleship:

Robert Schotter | robdean@ptd.net

Small Group Discipleship, Spiritual Growth Programming and Children & Youth Ministry

Outreach & Justice:

See Rev. Goudy for more information

Evangelism, Free Market, Silent Witness, Food Bank and Messengers Art Ministry, Helping Hands Ministry

Media & Marketing:

See Rev. Goudy for more information

Communications and Marketing Ministry

Denominational Representatives:

Lay Delegates Hope Hilby and Normana Schaaf

MCCLV BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Sue Carpenter, Jim Harbst, Diana LaTorre,

Emma Marrero, Lauren Sheldon and Ron Smith

**If you would like an item included on the Board agenda
see any Board Member**

MCCLV DEACONS

Loreli Bauer, Maricel Concepcion, Clarence Freed, Hope Hilby, Jessica Mitchell, Normana Schaaf, Karl Steiner and Carol Stevens

MCCLV STAFF

Pastor: Elizabeth Goudy | rev.goudy@mcclv.org

Music and Worship Director: Brian Jones | brian.jones@mcclv.org

Administrative Assistant: Paula Merkel | office@mcclv.org